

tematic and logical disquisition of that branch of knowledge, dividing it into the history of art, history of monuments, technique, &c. M. Freudenreich concluded the meeting by a memoir on some monuments found lately on the Cribbington, in Spain, whence he proved this to be the locality of the ancient *Phoenician Sclerese*, mentioned by Pliny, as one of the towns of Hispania.

Nuremberg.—*Harmony between Master and Men.*—On the 31st December, the workmen of the engine-manufacturers of Nuremberg, Oren and Klette, honoured their employers with a festival procession by torchlight. More than 400 such flambeaux-bearers gave to the assemblage a very imposing aspect. Messrs. C. and K. had, at much personal sacrifice, retained all their men during the calamitous year 1846; and on this occasion they have promised to establish, by their own means, a pension fund for their workmen, which, is however, to be managed by a committee of the men themselves.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

At the meeting on Wednesday evening, January 18th, Mr. Henry Thomas Hope, M.P., in the chair, an address from the Council was read by Mr. Henry Cole, as its chairman. With reference to the success which has attended the recent efforts of the Society, Mr. Cole observed:—"It is with societies as with individuals, they do not, cannot, prosper by following mere impulses. An individual who has no purpose in the world but to vegetate may as well not exist at all, whether he be rich or poor, the world soon finds out that he is little else than an encumbrance, and treats him with indifference. To prosper, indeed, in these times, the man must be at work. We find the same analogies existing with societies. Unless they prove their ability to work, and work to some useful purpose, they become virtually extinct. A society cannot exist merely upon its name. Not only must it be alive to perform the functions it affects to do, but it must perform them in accordance with the advancing knowledge and increasing demands of the time. Men's wants in 1851 are very different from what they were in 1751, when the public wants created the Society of Arts. The arts, the manufactures, and the commerce, at the two several periods of development, appear to be scarcely the same class of things. To teach or practise art as it was taught in 1751, would be held to be ridiculous at the present day. So with manufactures. The Hargreaves and Holys, who print calicoes by miles, would smile at the manufacturers who should propose to re-establish a factory at Chelsea, and paint patterns on cottons by the camel's-hair pencil, as was the case a century ago, in the early days of calico-printing! To go to market upon an pack-horse, and not by railways; to carry produce in waggon, and to be robbed of them on the highway, rather than to use blank cheque-books of the Bank of England; to pay postages in shillings rather than pence,—would be only to revert to the position of commerce in 1751."

The Council do not propose to hold any further Exhibitions this season; in order that the rooms of the Society may be free at all times to promote the interests of the Great Exhibition. It is their intention, during the period of the Exhibition, to hold several conversational and meetings for the discussion of topics which, it is believed, will arise out of the Exhibition.

"But it is not only upon the direct, but also the indirect circumstances and wants arising out of the Great Exhibition, that the Council will bestow their attention, and contribute the influence of the Society. There can be no doubt that the Exhibition will give rise to many new relations between men and things. Already a stronger connexion between the artist and manufacturer is springing up, beneficial to both. It will be the duty of the Council to foster this connexion; and they are considering a plan by which a friendly meeting for the discussion, investigation, and best means of promoting the union of art and manufactures may take place every year, in some one of the great manufacturing centres, somewhat on the principle of the meetings of the British Association and the Archaeological Societies. Connected with such an union, the Council feel that much remains to be done to educate the

mass of the people in the perception and practice of art, which the Exhibition is likely to make but too apparent; and taking advantage of the leisure we are likely to be taught, the Council propose taking an effort to establish elementary drawing and modelling schools throughout the country. They have submitted this proposal to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that he thinks it may prove very useful."

FREE PARK.

It cannot be questioned that the parks of London are not only highly ornamental, but extremely useful, as places for beautiful recreation for the masses, as well as for the display of fashion: by day they are all thronged with health and pleasure seekers, and with open space their drives serve as agreeable lines of intercommunication between the extended districts of towns, which now encompass all these reserves.

At night, however, there is no thoroughfare open through them, and the inhabitant at one side of Hyde-park, who is removed but half-a-mile from a house on the other side which he wants to visit, must, after nine o'clock p.m., take a circuit of two miles and a-half, or three miles, to effect his object: this, added to the like distance on return, imposes on him the loss in time of one hour, and in labour of four miles!

For what purpose this great central space is encircled with iron palisades, and guarded by closed gates, it is hard to conjecture: there is no herd of deer, nor yet kine, now to disturb; no plantations to damage, nor other public treasure to guard. It may be very requisite to debar the multitude from lying out in summer on the herbage, and even requisite to save wayfarers from being plundered, by restricting intercourse to certain broad ways, but there is no good reason wherefore there should not be at least one open carriage-way, well lighted, and guarded by police, free for passengers throughout the night.

That upwards of two miles—from Park-lane to Kensington Church on the south side, and a like distance (from Park-lane to Notting-hill) on the north side—should be wholly sealed up, appears to be unnecessary, as it is unjustifiable, and is a severe infliction of cost and trouble upon the residents of the great suburbs of Brompton, on one side, and of Bayswater and Westbourne, on the other.

At this particular crisis a line of road across the centre of Hyde-park, from north to south, is essentially required for the freedom of transit to and from the Exhibition, and as there is a bridge (close to Kensington-gardens) ready built, a wall on one side (the Hahe) ready constructed, with a gate and lodge at the end of Westbourne-terrace, but little expense need be needed to complete the traverse so as to issue upon the Kensington high road at or near Gore-house.

The progress of society demands the accommodation here pointed out, and the further continuance of exclusion from the park by night, and of the severance of two great townships containing a population of at least 20,000 persons (the greater part of whom suffer frequent inconvenience from the prohibition), is a wanton injury to the residents.

That the boundaries should be raised and spiked, does seem a piece of railway, and can be continued but in accordance with usages in times gone by, when the surrounding districts were rural, when there might have been game to preserve, and when the office of a ranger might have been essential to chase marauders from those then unfrequented liberties.

Were it essential to rail in both sides of the proposed route, an open wire-fence would suffice, and could be of no detriment to the sylvan or verdant aspect of the park, any more than the wire-fences (round the private conservatories) in Regent's-park, may be considered to mar the character of these fields for commissionerships.

If there are to be night reserves of wide extent, do let them be inclosed and bastioned at a distance from the vitals of the metropolis: the fancy for iron spikes and exclusion might be harmlessly enjoyed by functionaries, say at Battersea-fields, or (for amusement sake) in some sportive reserves to be yet retained in the

New Forest. Such fantasies might therefore in rank and station, whilst the adventurous and hurried artisan returning home by night should escape being detected, as has frequently happened in the temperance covering our man-boated park.

QUODDAM.

THE PLANS OF YORKSHIRE CHURCHES.

In the December number of the *Ecologist* (page 257), in an attack on a local architect, it is stated, "that he should have not copied, in his plan, for right angles, following the precedent, for example, of the old parish churches of York, in which there is hardly a right angle to be found." Now, the old parish churches of York were in the *olden time* perfectly rectangular, and are still so, and the aisles are all parallel, with one exception, and that appears to have arisen from contiguous excavations and decay of materials.

Of the twenty-three churches in York, nineteen are rectangular, of which three are modernised: the remaining four are fragments, viz. St. Crux, or the Holy Cross, on the Pavement, with its brick tower, and western oblique end, rebuilt to widen the shambles, in 1697, but the east end remains perfectly rectangular; Christchurch, in Colliergate, with its oblique east and west ends of recent creation, which is but a fragment of the original building, the ends having been made to accommodate Colliergate on the east and the before-named shambles on the west; the south aisle of St. Helen's in the square, which has been rebuilt with two oblique faces at the west end, to give space entering to Dwygate; and the fourth, St. John's, in Micklegate, which had its north aisle rebuilt oblique to the east, and the whole of the east front is now in progress of skewing or building obliquely, to form a wider entrance to North-street, which conduces to the railway terminus.

ELKAVIC.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE ABOUT WESTMINSTER BRIDGE?

You occasionally favour your readers with some observations regarding Westminster Bridge and the New Houses of the Legislature. It would be a great boon to the court neighbourhood, both ends of the bridge, if you could enlighten us as to the intentions of the Government respecting the new bridge, the proposed temporary bridge, &c. There are so many rumours about, that, with many of my neighbours who are leaseholders, I am in a state of perfect perplexity as to what is about to be done. I am told, on pretty good authority, that the new bridge will certainly be erected on the old site; that Mr. Barry has quite changed his opinion about the bridge being injurious to the new Houses; but that he wishes the new structure to be 100 feet broad, and flatter than the present one, allowing 18 feet only from high-water mark to the key-stone of the arches. To this proposal, I hear, the City Navigation Committee object, and say they must have 25 feet clear above high-water mark.

I believe Mr. Barry, in wishing a low bridge, urges the instability of a lofty one, as all the barges and steam-boats lower their masts and funnels when passing under. Now, can you not take up the cudgels for us a little in your journal? Every one believes that this entire neighbourhood will undergo great changes shortly, and as we are all so much interested, it is natural we should feel a little anxious about these proposed changes. It does appear to me most lamentable and melancholy to see such a thing trifled with and shelved session after session—a work of such acknowledged utility and greatness; and is not the present bridge, with three arches blocked up in the centre of the Thames, a disgrace to the country—the centre arches of a metropolitan bridge kept up by a wooden leg? When could there be a better time to commence such a work than now? Money abundant and cheap, and a full exchequer. What a delightful thing it would have been to have had the new House of Parliament and the bridge finished in such a year as this, that our fellow-men from the ends of the earth might see and admire the seat of England's greatness and glory—the assembling-place of her people's representatives.

W. H. RUWA.